## **St. Thomas More Newman Center**

## **2020 Mission Trip--Delegation to El Salvador**

## **Information Sheet**

## The St. Thomas More Newman Center Mission Trip program immerses students in experiences where the People of God of Columbia, Missouri, meet the People of God in another part of the world. Through immersion in the community and environment where they serve, students have an intense spiritual and educational experience as they witness, discuss, pray, and work to address social issues.

This year, the St. Thomas More Newman Center will sponsor a delegation of college students to visit our sister parish La Immaculada Concepcion in La Libertad, El Salvador, and sacred sites in San Salvador. We work with the SHARE Foundation to facilitate our sistering relationships. SHARE coordinates all aspects of the trip from the moment we arrive at the airport in San Salvador and until we return to the airport.

**Details:**

* **March 21** (leave early in the morning from either St. Louis/Kansas City/Columbia) – **March 28, 2020** (return in the evening)
* Airline tickets will be purchased once the group is chosen (for security reasons).
* Participants will need a passport.
* Food and lodging (guesthouses, hostels, and with host families) are provided.

**Participants are representing the St. Thomas More Newman Center as we visit our sistering parish and foster mutual relationships. This is an immersion experience** where participants learn the philosophy of mutual accompaniment. “SHARE has always focused on accompanying or walking with, Salvadorans. A key part of accompaniment is realizing that Salvadorans are protagonists of their own destinies. We are not in El Salvador to tell Salvadorans what to do, but to be in a relationship of solidarity: listening, witnessing, conversing, supporting” (SHARE Pre-Delegation Packet 2019).

**Visit** sacred sites in San Salvador, celebrate St. Oscar Romero’s feast day on March 24th, learn about SHARE and its initiatives, spend time with our sister parish (spend two days in the campo with host families) and participate in local projects.

## **Participant Responsibilities:**

## 1. Attend and actively participate in meetings before, during, and after the trip. (see page 2)

## 2. Remain sensitive at all times, respecting the customs and culture of the host community.

## 3. Review and understand in-country guidelines, especially pertaining to health and safety, and take appropriate

## steps to keep yourself safe and healthy.

4. Adhere to proper behavior as a member of a group. Listen and follow the requests of SHARE staff, organizers,

and St. Thomas More Newman Center staff.

5. Be prepared to gracefully handle experiences and realities that are radically different from your own.

6. Abide by Salvadoran law.

7. Communicate any special needs (dietary, physical, or emotional) to St. Thomas More Newman Center staff.

8. Engage in prayer, education, service, and reflection throughout the trip.

9. Complete payment schedule on time (see page 2).

## **Site Leader Responsibilities (in addition to above responsibilities):**

## Those interested in additional leadership on the trip may apply to be one of the two Site Leaders.

1. Work with Campus Ministry staff to plan the meetings that occur before, during, and after the trip.

2. Plan reflection, prayer, and community building activities for meetings.

3. Share feedback with Campus Ministers.

4. Be a group motivator before, during, and after the trip.

5. Assist Campus Ministers with organizational tasks and logistics (collecting emergency contact forms, etc.).

**Financial Requirements:**

**Cost breakdown**:

Airfare Allowance: $ 830

SHARE Coordination Fee: $ 395

Food, Lodging, Water, Transportation, Honorariums, Tshirt and Incidentals: $ 450

Subtotal $1650

Minus the $2000 donation to the trip; equivalent of $100 per person -$100

**Total Cost per person: $1550**

Additional costs not paid to Newman: passport, immunizations, $100 for your souvenirs

Applications will be accepted for **16 trip spots.**  These spots are divided into two funding options.  Those interested may apply for one or both of these options in the application:

**1.  Fundraising (available for all 16 spots):**

Students who wish to offset the cost of the trip can complete 15 fundraising hours by working in the Newman parking lot before home football games or working in conjunction with the Development Office (making calls to parents and alumni, working Family Weekend or Homecoming events).

* You may begin fundraising before you turn in your application.
* These hours MUST be completed BEFORE leaving for the trip.
* If all 15 hours are completed, you will earn $525 toward the cost of your trip (see payment schedule below).
* If you work fundraising hours for football games, those will be a benefit of $40 per hour (giving up to an additional $75 off the trip!).
* **Hours must be completed or scheduled by Stop Day, December 6, 2019.**
* For any hours not completed, there will be an additional $35 charge for each hour that will be due BEFORE leaving for the trip.

**2.  Payment in full (if you choose):**  Students who do not wish to complete the fundraising hours may choose to pay in full for the trip.  The total cost of the trip will be $1600 and will be due before leaving for the trip (see payment schedule below).

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| **Payment Schedule** | October 23rd | January 23rd | March 1st | Total Paid |
| Fundraising | $225 deposit | $400 | $400\* | $1025 |
| Payment in Full | $400 deposit | $575 | $575\* | $1550 |

\*Final payment may be adjusted down once flights are booked. If donors are found to cover certain all-trip costs (in addition to the $2000 donation already received), the final payment may be adjusted to reflect this.

Plane tickets will be booked on or around January 1, 2020. Once purchased, if a participant cannot attend the trip, then he or she will owe the Newman Center the difference of the plane ticket and fees already paid.

3. **Letters of Support:** Campus Ministry representatives will also be available to assist with sending out fundraising letters of support. Any funds collected through letters will be applied to the participant’s account.

## **Meeting Schedule:**

## Preparation for the trip is a mandatory requirement. Preparation experiences serve to educate participants about the realities and cultural differences that they will encounter. They also serve to build cohesion and community and clarify practical matters. Most importantly, participants will begin to pray with and for those whom the group will meet. Participants are expected to attend all meetings and events. More than one unexcused absence could jeopardize your attendance on the trip.

## Meeting #1: Sunday, October 20th, 9:15 pm in the Disciples Room

## Meeting #2, watch *Roses in December* or *Romero,* scheduled in November (TBD)

## Meeting #3: Thursday, January 23rd at 7 pm in the Disciples Room

## Meeting #4: Thursday, February 13th at 7 pm in the Disciples Room

## Meeting #5: Sunday, March 15th at 9:15 pm in the Disciples Room

## Attend one Spanish Mass with fellowship afterward (meal?) in the fall or spring semester. Decide as group. (Sacred Heart has a Spanish Mass at 1 pm on Sundays.)

* Reunion: (after the trip) TBD

**All applications must be submitted online by October 6, 2019 at 10 pm.**

See [www.comonewman.org](http://www.comonewman.org), click “Campus Ministry” and then “Event Signups” to apply.